

IN SEARCHING THE "WALTHAM" ARCHIVES FOR PARKIN'S  
PATENTS OF ANY NATURE, THIS TURNED UP - IT IS INTERESTING  
BUT NOT WHAT I HOPED TO FIND.

CTP.

THE  
**PERMANENT STEREOTYPE**  
**STEEL PLATE,**  
WITH  
**OBSERVATIONS ON ITS IMPORTANCE,**  
AND  
**AN EXPLANATION**  
OF ITS  
**CONSTRUCTION AND USES.**

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C. STEBBINS, PRINTER.

1806.

THE  
Permanent Stereotype Steel Plate, &c.

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IT has ever been an object with all enlightened legislators, to provide for the community a circulating medium, convenient for the purposes of commerce, and at the same time not liable to be counterfeited. This object has never yet been fully attained. Even the precious metals, so universally adopted by civilized nations, have not been proof against the art and ingenuity of counterfeiters; and paper money, so convenient and necessary in all commercial countries, has been still more exposed to this evil. Hence innumerable laws, with severe penalties, have been enacted against the crime of counterfeiting the current money; but to very little purpose. The facility of doing it, and the hope of escaping detection, have, notwithstanding, increased to a very alarming degree this species of offence. In the United States, the practice of counterfeiting *bank bills* has really become a branch of adventurous speculation. And so numerous are our banks, and so various in form and appearance are the bills, they issue, that it is hard to say which is the greater, the ease of imposing false bills on the public, or the difficulty of detecting the impostors. Not unfrequently, upon the erection of a new bank, we are presented

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with counterfeited bills, before we have had opportunity to examine the real. And even bills of fictitious banks have been made in great quantities, and freely circulated through the country. The evil is certainly of magnitude, and threatens to diminish, if not to destroy the confidence of the people in paper money. It is also fraught with misery to individuals, as well as with injuries to the community. How many, allured by the fallacious hope of suddenly making their fortunes by counterfeiting bank bills, have been drawn from the paths of honest industry, and, with their families and friends, plunged into disgrace and ruin. Any effectual plan, therefore, to check such an evil must not only command attention from the man of business, but will engage the feelings and the patronage of every friend to human happiness. The most effectual plan for this purpose is, undoubtedly, to increase at once the difficulty of counterfeiting bills, and the ease of detecting it ; and thus to destroy all hope of attempting it with success.

Such is the plan, which the Subscriber now offers to the consideration of the public, and which he has, for the last five years, been labouring to accomplish. He flatters himself that, on strict investigation, it will be found in its present improved state to approach nearer to the desired security, than any mode here-



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tofore adopted or proposed. He believes that an exact *uniformity* in bills, excepting the name of the *bank* and town, is the only means by which individuals can be enabled to distinguish between spurious and genuine bills. To effect this *uniformity*, he has formed a case-hardened steel plate, from which the frontispiece was printed; this he will carefully preserve as a *standard* plate for all those banks, which honour him with their attention. It is presumed that all the bills, which the present age would require, might be made from this plate, without defacing it in any perceptible degree.

This plate is made up of fifty seven case-hardened steel dies, an inch thick, and keyed together in a strong iron frame, which is screwed firm to a metal plate of an inch thickness. It is made of separate parts, in order that it should serve to print bills of any denomination, and for any banks, simply by removing the dies, which contain the name of the bank, town and denomination, and substituting others prepared for the purpose; and also that an exact uniformity might be preserved between banks in general, which could not be effected in the common way of engraving plates.

This principle of making plates combines engraving, etching, and an exact imitation of the most difficult parts of block work, which has never before been

produced. To prevent its being copied with blocks, engraving intersecting with the block work imitation is added, which gives an impression not within the power of the artist to produce from blocks. To execute this block work imitation, a long and laborious process is necessary, the expense of which could not be reimbursed, unless a great number of impressions were wanted. Circular dies, through which is fixed an iron axle, are first prepared, then intersecting lines are indented, and letters are sunk on their edges; they are then hardened, which contracts the steel; the impression is then made by these dies on the steel or copper plates, under the pressure of a strong, double jointed, moveable lever, invented for the purpose, being a new application of that power, the lateral motions of which are produced by fixing a wrench on the axle of the circular dies, and turning it backwards and forwards, till the cross lines and letters are sufficiently raised.

The standing parts of the plate being always the same, it will exactly gauge or check with any denomination of any bank, while, at the same time, the engraving and etching will compare only with the bill of the same check letter, which may be seen at each end of the bill. The block work imitation, which may be easily known by the intersecting white lines, will gauge or check with bills, A, B, C and D; that

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work having been impressed with the circular dies, a sameness is preserved.

This method of checking bills of different banks by one standard has never before been practised, nor could it be upon the old plan of engraving plates, for such soon wear out; and experience has proved it impracticable to engrave two exactly alike.

In making this plate, together with the machinery and dies necessarily used about it, more than eight hundred days have been expended.

Three years have elapsed since bills from Stereotype plates have been circulating, and no attempt has been known to have been made to counterfeit them; twenty six banks have had bills made upon this plan.

#### METHOD OF CHECKING OR GUAGING.

Should a suspected bill be offered, double down the margin or denomination of the bill, as in the plate bill, D; draw the bill smooth, and when the two outside letters compare, all the intermediate ones will likewise compare, if the bill be genuine. Should some of the letters guage and others not, the bill must be counterfeit; for as all the genuine bills are from the same die, they must all exactly compare. If the bill should be much rumpled or worn, observe whether the white lines intersect with the letters, as in the plate, and whether the number of white lines agree; the grain of the steel also may be seen in dif-

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ferent parts of the bill ; the check letter will determine which bill to compare with. Bills, that have already been printed from copper Stereotype plates, will gauge with the margin of the check plate, and also with the denomination printed from the largest white letters ; the small white letters and figures, having been altered in form, will not gauge. Nothing need be added to shew the advantages, arising from the possession of such a check plate.

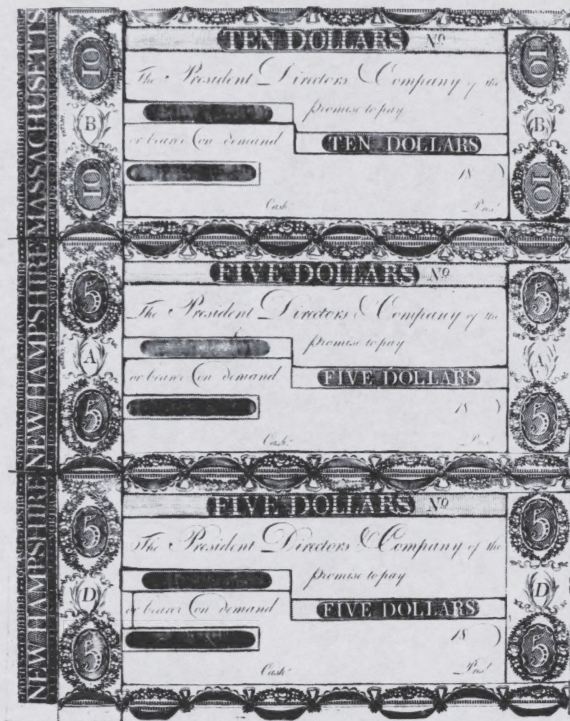
## TERMS.

Banks, that adopt this principle of making bills, are furnished each with eight steel dies, containing the name of the bank and town ; which are kept by the bank for its own security. At the rate of *four dollars* for every hundred impressions, is charged for printing ; and as there is no charge for plates or dies, the expense will not be greater than in the usual mode. For the patent right, banks pay from thirty to one hundred dollars annually ; should their bills be counterfeited, no pay is required. Bills of less denomination than five dollars are printed from copper Stereotype plates, of an oval form, which is an infallible check against altering them to any of a higher denomination.

JACOB PERKINS.

Newburyport, Mass. Jan. 1, 1806.





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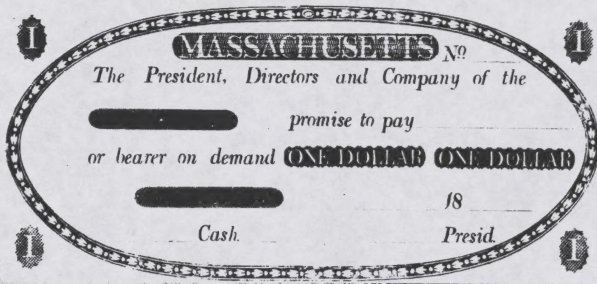
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